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ABSTRACT

These four "Connections" sheets provide information on programs and a publication offered by the Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC). The first describes and lists sources of information on nine study circle programs relating to adult religious education. The second sheet not only describes four discussion programs and materials especially designed for young people but provides sources for additional information on them. The programs are: Action Education (home economics); Choices for the 21st Century Education Project; Project Public Life (community-based civic education); and National Issues Forums materials (issue books and newsletters with ideas for their classroom use). The third sheet provides a list of six references taken from SCRC's resource for researchers, "Annotated Bibliography on Study Circles, Collaborative Learning, and Participatory Democracy," which contains 144 references. Sources of information on these organizations are provided: Oliver Associates, HealthCare Education Associates, Latino Empowerment Education Collaborative, Brunnsvik's Folk High School, Study Circle Consortium, and Northern Illinois University's Department of Leadership and Educational Policy Studies. The fourth sheet lists five contacts interested in union study circles: Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO; International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Association; International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen; International Chemical Workers Union; and Labor Institute. (YLB)

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CONNECTIONS:

ADULT RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS
YOUTH PROGRAMS
STUDY CIRCLE RESEARCHERS

UNIONS

Study Circles Resource Center
Pomfret, CT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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CONNECTIONS:
Adult Religious Education

The Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC) produces the Public Talk Series (PTS) of discussion programs on a variety of domestic and foreign policy topics, many of which focus on ethical considerations. Many faith-based organizations are using the programs, notably Mennonite Mutual Aid which distributed 1,000 copies of a customized version of *The Health Care Crisis in America* to pastors and heads of regional educational councils around the country. Below are descriptions of other study circle programs relating to adult religious education.

National Issues Forums (NIF) is another organization producing discussion programs on a variety of issues. The special report *Religion and Public Policy: Religious Institutions and the National Issues Forums* documents wide use of NIF issue books in religious settings. The Vineyards Project is an especially successful program in which white and black churches in Dayton, OH, have paired up for fellowship and discussion of NIF issues of mutual concern.

Dr. Jon Rye Kinghorn
Program Officer
National Issues Forums
100 Commons Road
Dayton, OH 45459-2777
(800) 433-7834
(800) 433-4819 (in OH)

Jack McBride, in conjunction with the National Advisory Committee on Adult Religious Education (NACARE) of the U.S. Catholic Conference, develops discussion programs on social and political issues. By providing supplements based on excerpts from Catholic documents for the discussion programs produced by SCRC and NIF, McBride helps Catholic groups take their own faith's teaching and values into account.

Jack McBride
Assoc. Dir. of Adult Rel. Ed.
Diocese of Madison
142 West Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 255-5108

The Maine Council of Churches is responding to frequent requests for assistance in facilitating ecumenical discussions around difficult ethical and moral issues by establishing a formal program that will help local and regional church councils use study circles. The program, now in the pilot stage, will provide materials and train leaders to facilitate discussion on selected topics.

Sarah Campbell
Communications Director
Maine Council of Churches
15 Pleasant Avenue
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 772-1918

The Office of Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Hartford is developing a discussion program on homelessness and affordable housing. Participants can select from a menu of 11 topics. Those groups choosing to complete the entire program will be ready to take first steps toward a local housing project. The first version of the program has sections based on Catholic documents; plans call for development of an ecumenical version of the program.

Patricia M. Wallace
Office of Urban Affairs
Archdiocese of Hartford
81 Saltonstall Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
(203) 777-7279

(over)

Route 169 P.O. Box 203 Pomfret, Connecticut 06258
(203) 928-2616 FAX (203) 928-3713

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Serendipity produces and sells discussion guides for Christians to use in small groups, most focusing on personal and spiritual growth through discussion, personal sharing, and Bible study. Serendipity also provides training programs for group leaders and a booklet called *Small Group Training Manual: Six Sessions for Training Leaders*. Growth of Serendipity groups has been outstanding, with their books selling at the rate of over 1,000 per day.

John Tucker
Serendipity
PO Box 1012
Littleton, CO 80160
(800) 525-9563

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has produced several excellent study circle programs on a variety of topics. *The El Salvador Study Packet* is a sequel to *End Our Forgotten War*, a three-session, study/action program based on a variety of printed materials and a video. UUSC also has discussion programs such as *An Introductory Guide to Africa*, a program on aging, and one on the condition of children in America. Linda MacKay is currently working on *What Next for the Poor*, which will focus on poverty and economic development in Central America.

Linda MacKay, Program Assoc.
Citizen Action Department
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
130 Prospect Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 868-6600

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has produced a variety of study/discussion programs. *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* is a multi-media program examining the demise of the female interpretation of the supreme being. UUA also publishes study guides to books such as *How Can I Help? Stories and Reflections on Service* by Ram Dass and Paul Gorman and *Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age: Why I Am a Unitarian Universalist* by Jack Mendelsohn.

Unitarian Universalist Assn. Bookstore
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 742-2100

Twenty-Third Publications publishes a variety of books that can be used in dialogue and group study situations. Most of the books focus on adult faith development, including personal spirituality, Christian belief and practice, and prayer. Some focus on social and political issues such as ecology and feminism as seen through a Christian perspective. Their brochure states: "Small groups are a vital tool of spiritual growth. . . . (They) serve as a vehicle for changing church life from the merely functional to the transformational."

William Holub
Organizational Liaison
Twenty-Third Publications
PO Box 180, 185 Willow Street
Mystic, CT 06355
(203) 536-2611
(800) 321-0411

Friendship Press has produced study guides to accompany many of their books and videos. Their material comes from a Christian perspective, and many of the publications are designed to help discussion participants become more familiar with other cultures. Their programs cover Islam, the Middle East, Japan, India, the Philippines, and Ethiopia as well as religious and women's issues.

Friendship Press Distribution Office
PO Box 37844
Cincinnati, OH 45222-0844
(513) 948-8733

The Winter 1992 issue of SCRC's newsletter, *Focus on Study Circles*, has an article by Sarah Campbell on study circles and ecumenism. Call or write for a copy and for information on SCRC's other publications and services.

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CONNECTIONS: Youth Programs

The Study Circles Resource Center's Public Talk Series programs are used in classrooms as well as in adult discussion programs. Below are descriptions of discussion programs especially designed for young people.

Are study circles appropriate for the high school classroom? Most definitely, according to the experience of home economics teachers in New York. Their successful work is the basis for *Action Education: Using Study Circles to Build Student Leadership Teams*. This guide is an exceptionally valuable resource for anyone using study circle programs in the classroom. It includes guidelines for facilitators (who may be either students or teachers), strategies for building group cohesion and trust, suggestions for evaluation of the process, and ideas for grading and evaluating students. (*Action Education* is out or print; photocopies are available from SCRC for $3.00.)

Marilyn Hess-Klink
NY State Education Dept.
Bureau of Home Economics & Technology Education
One Commerce Plaza, Rm. 1619
Albany, NY 12234
(518) 474-3954

Recently, Hess-Klink has been working with Norman D. Kurland, a consultant, to develop and implement a study circle program for disadvantaged students in a vocational education program. The results have been very positive: "When kids are given a say in their learning, there are tremendous results."

The Choices project brings discussion and debate on foreign policy to the classrooms by providing teachers with reproducible mini-units on current foreign policy issues. These two-week curriculum supplements involve students in examining the pros and cons, risks and trade-offs, and the possible outcomes of alternative foreign policies. A new unit is published every three months during the academic year. Some of the units are: *The Role of the United States in a Changing World*, *Facing a Disintegrated Soviet Union*, and *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Looking for a Lasting Peace*.

Susan Graseck, Director
Choices for the 21st Century Education Project
Center for Foreign Policy Development
Brown University, Box 1948
Providence, RI 02912
(401) 863-3155

Project Public Life is committed to revitalizing the practice of citizenship in America through community-based civic education. *Making the Rules: A Workbook for Young People Who Intend to Make a Difference* helps students deal with politics in their lives, including what goes on at school. The four-step program is "a tool kit you can use for building your public life." Project Public Life also produces discussion programs for adults, including *Doing Politics*, which looks at how we do politics and suggests ways for making public work more effective and fun, and the Solomon Project, with workshops to help low-income parents become more involved with their community's schools.

Project Public Life
Rm. 147, Humphrey Center
301 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-0142

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National Issues Forums (NIF) material is used in classrooms around the country. Every year NIF produces three or four new issue books in the "choicework" format. The 1992-93 issue books, for example, are *People and Politics: Who Should Govern?*, *Prescription for Prosperity: Four Paths to Economic Renewal*, *Criminal Violence: What Direction Now for the War on Crime?*, and *The Health Care Crisis: Containing Costs, Expanding Coverage*. Ideas for classroom use of the issue books, which are reasonably priced, are shared in a newsletter, *NIF in the Classroom*. The newsletter is produced about every six weeks during the school year and is available through the NIF office.

For program information:
Dr. Jon Rye Kinghorn
National Issues Forums
100 Commons Road
Dayton, OH 45459-2777
(800) 433-7834 or
(513) 434-7300

To order issue books:
Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.
2460 Kerper Blvd., PO Box 539
Dubuque, IA 52004-0539
(800) 338-5578

Write or call for a complete list of SCRC's publications including topical discussion programs and general information on study circles.

CONNECTIONS:
Study Circle Researchers

SCRC's most valuable resource for researchers is its *Annotated Bibliography on Study Circles, Collaborative Learning, and Participatory Democracy*, with 144 references organized into five sections on general information, theory, history and current-day examples, how-to's, and social and political context for study circles. The following list will also be useful to those seeking insights on study circles.

Oliver, who has developed study circles for several unions in the U.S., is one of the foremost practitioners of study circle development in this country. He is also the author of the only book about study circles published in the U.S., *Study Circles: Coming Together for Personal Growth and Social Change* (Seven Locks Press, 1987), a report on study circles as they have been integrated into Swedish national life, with an extensive history of their use in the U.S.

Leonard P. Oliver, Ph.D.
Oliver Associates
3429 34th Place, NW
Washington, DC 20016
(202) 362-1522

HealthCare Education Associates, a small research and publishing company, specializes in developing education programs on health care issues. Strombeck has written several articles on the use of study circles in health care education, especially for older people, and is author of a pre-retirement planning program on health insurance needs that is based on the study circle format. Dr. Strombeck is especially knowledgeable of Swedish health education programs and is currently researching a book about the use of study circles in health care education in Sweden, England, and the U.S.

Rita Strombeck, Ph.D., Pres.
HealthCare Education Associates
70 Campton Place
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(714) 240-2179

Clason-Hook lived in Sweden for several years and was a study circle discussion leader there. She works with a grassroots Latino organization where she has introduced study circles with great success. Her recently completed dissertation, "Study Circles: Promoting Caring Learning Environments for Latino Women," is based on this work.

Carla Clason-Hook, Ph.D.
Latino Empowerment Education Collaborative
PO Box 70192
Springfield, MA 01107
(413) 734-7381

Blid is a Swedish educator with broad knowledge of study circles and author of *Education by the People: Study Circles* (in English, available through SCRC), which may be the most detailed published description of study circles and why they are effective. In this book, Blid describes the origin and history of study circles in Sweden; the bulk of the book is devoted to a detailed treatise on the theory and practice of study circles.

Henry Blid
Brunnsvik's Folk High School
Box 740
771 01 Ludvika, Sweden

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Kurland, the former Executive Director of Adult Learning Services in the New York State Education Department, helped found the Study Circle Consortium in Albany, NY, in the late 1970s. For several years the Study Circle Consortium advanced study circles by developing guidebooks, conducting trainings, publishing discussion materials, and doing research. Kurland was a key figure in this work, and continues to develop study circles as a consultant. (The Consortium never succeeded in developing a stable funding base, and it now exists informally as several individuals who consult with one another on various study circle projects.)

Dr. Norman D. Kurland
110 Salisbury Road
Delmar, NY 12054-1219
(518) 439-9065

Northern Illinois University's Dept. of Leadership and Educational Policy Studies has an enclave of people dedicated to participatory democracy. Several graduate students are conducting research on study circles, including Nancy Jung, whose interests include study circles in religious education, and Sidek Baba, who is an officer in the Ministry of Education in Malaysia, where study circles have been used since the 1970s.

Phyllis Cunningham, Ph.D.
Assistant Chair
Dept. of Leadership and
Educational Policy Studies
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-1000

Contact SCRC for a copy of the bibliography mentioned earlier or for information on its other publications and services.

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STUDY CIRCLES RESOURCE CENTER

CONNECTIONS:
Unions

The Department for Professional Employees (DPE) of the AFL-CIO, which represents 28 different unions, has developed a study circle program on national health care for its member unions. The five-session program includes a participant's manual, a short leader's guide, and a video. In 1991 DPE tested the program in six different unions; the feedback was strongly positive. The DPE is currently publicizing the program internally. More information, including reasonably priced copies of the study circle material, are available from Chamot's office.

Dennis Chamot
Exec. Asst. to the President
Dept. for Prof. Employees
AFL-CIO
815 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 638-0320

IUF, with strong study circle educational programs in the developing world and Sweden, has what may be the world's largest study circle program. The program has not been embraced at the local level by the nine affiliated unions in North America, but the regional office is providing opportunities for members to experience study circle techniques in some of the programs it offers.

Joy Ann Grune, Reg. Secretary
North American Regional Org.
Int'l Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)
1875 Conn. Ave., NW, Rm. 708
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 265-4440

In 1986 the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen (BAC) developed a study circle program to involve members in discussions about the union's and the industry's future. Focusing on a report issued by BAC's leadership, the study circles were organized and led by business agents all over the country. Currently, BAC is using study circles in southern California following a reorganization of union locals there. Business agents have received training and materials to help union members discuss the changes in the union's structure. SCRC can provide a copy of BAC's final report on the 1986 study circle pilot program. Also available are two articles from the July 1988 *BAC Journal*, "Study Circles: Business Agent View" and "No-Holds-Barred During Study Circles."

Connie Lambert
Assistant to the President
Int'l Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen
815 15th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 783-3788

The Health and Safety Department of the International Chemical Workers Union has been conducting training programs built around a study circle approach for several years. The week-long trainings held at their Center for Worker Health and Safety Education in Cincinnati involve about 25 union members each week. The Department is currently working with the Labor Occupational Health Program in Berkeley, CA, to make their training manuals suitable for people with various levels of reading ability.

Tom McQuiston, Project Dir. and Industrial Hygienist
ICWU Health and Safety Dept.
1655 W. Market St.
Akron, OH 44313
(216) 867-2444

(over)

Route 169 P.O. Box 203 Pomfret, Connecticut 06258
(203) 928-2616 FAX (203) 928-3713

The Labor Institute has worked with a variety of unions, in particular the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, to develop small-group hands-on training programs. The Labor Institute's "small group activity method" is similar to study circles, but involves more activities and less discussion.

Cydney Wilkes
Labor Institute
853 Broadway, Rm. 2014
New York, NY 10003
(212) 674-3322

A complete list of SCRC's contacts interested in union study circles is available upon request. Call or write SCRC for information on its publications and services.

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